

Bill Number: SB 583

Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County

Opposed

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 583
PUBLIC SAFETY – LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES – ACQUISITION AND USE OF
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

I write in opposition to Senate Bill 583 that would greatly hamper Law Enforcement efforts to fight crime and arrest criminals.

SB 583 creates a Privacy Technology Board that must approve all existing and future forms of surveillance technology. Most of the forms of technology currently in place require a court order. This Board will have to review wire taps, which already require a court order; GPS tracking, which already requires a court order; cell phone PING orders, which already require a court order; and Cell Site simulators are already regulated.

Why is the 4th Amendment and the courts not good enough to be making these decisions? Why does another bureaucracy need to be created for rights that are regulated by the courts?

I request an unfavorable report.